

Claims

Cancel Claims 1-59

Claim 60 (New) A method to adapt a route to implement a process, comprising:
divide the process into a sequence of process steps;

assign to each process step, except for a first process step for which a workflow step is to be specified during the execution of the route, a workflow step to implement the process step where the sequence of workflow steps creates a route;

define a set of potential process step candidates, each with an associated workflow step, and define a list of process step candidates;

include in the route prior to the first process step, an adaptive workflow step to select a process step from the list of process step candidates to implement the first process step;

execute the route in a workflow system such that the adaptive workflow step is executed and used to select a process step with the corresponding workflow step to implement the first process step and adapt the route to implement the process by inserting the selected workflow step into the route to implement the first process step.

Claim 61 (New) The method of Claim 60, wherein the adaptive workflow step specifies a sub-process with an associated sub-route, a sequence of workflow steps, by selecting from a list of sub-processes and inserts the workflow steps in the route.

Claim 62 (New) The method of Claim 60, wherein the adaptive workflow step specifies a process step with associated workflow step from a library of process steps, by selecting from the list of process step candidates and inserts the workflow step in the route.

Claim 63 (New) The method of Claim 60, wherein a second process step has an associated second adaptive workflow step and the adaptive workflow step selects the second process step and inserts the second adaptive workflow step into the route.

Claim 64 (New) The method of Claim 60, wherein the adaptive workflow step provides multiple selection of process steps from the list of process step candidates such that the associated workflow steps of the selected process steps are executed in parallel.

Claim 65 (New) The method of Claim 60, wherein the adaptive workflow step modifies a process step with associated workflow step and specifies the modified process step by adding it to and selecting from the list of process step candidates.

Claim 66 (New) The method of Claim 60, wherein the adaptive workflow step specifies a user for the specified workflow step from a list of users, where the list of users is selected from a set of users and the list selection criteria includes site, user role, workflow step, and user organization level.

Claim 67 (New) The method of Claim 60, wherein the list of process step candidates is selected from a set of process steps where the list selection criteria includes site, process step, and user organization level.

Claim 68 (New) A workflow system for adapting a route while processing the route, comprising:

a computer, a user interface, both connected by a network;

a set of step candidates and a list of step candidates stored in the computer;

an adaptive workflow program executing in the computer and providing an adaptive step as a screen on the user interface to specify a subsequent step in a route by selecting a step from the list of step candidates during the processing of the route;

a route, containing the adaptive step, stored in the computer;

wherein the adaptive workflow program processes the route and

the adaptive step is processed to specify the subsequent step in the route which adapts the route by inserting the specified step in the route as the subsequent step.

Claim 69 (New) The system of Claim 68, where the adaptive step specifies a list of step candidates selected from possible step candidates where the list

selection criteria includes site, adaptive step, subsequent step, user organization level.

Claim 70 (New) The system of Claim 68, wherein the adaptive step specifies a sub-route, a sequence of steps, by selecting a sub-route from a list of candidate sub-routes.

Claim 71 (New) The system of Claim 68, wherein a second step includes a second adaptive step and the adaptive step selects the second step from the list of step candidates such that the second adaptive step is inserted into the route.

Claim 72 (New) The system of Claim 68, wherein the adaptive step provides multiple selection of steps from the list of step candidates such that the selected steps are executed in parallel.

Claim 73 (New) The system of Claim 68, wherein the adaptive step modifies a step and specifies the modified step by adding to and selecting the modified step from the list of step candidates.

Claim 74 (New) A method to adapt the execution of a workflow route, a sequence of steps, comprising:

define the workflow route except a first step to be specified during the execution of the workflow route;

define a set of step candidates and define a list of the step candidates;

include in the workflow route prior to the yet to be specified first step, an adaptive step to select the first step from a list of step candidates;

start execution of the workflow route in a workflow system such that the adaptive step selects a second step from the list of step candidates and adapts the execution of the workflow route by inserting the second step into the route as the first step.

Claim 75 (New) The method of Claim 74, wherein the list of step candidates is selected from the set of step candidates using criteria including site, work flow step, and user organization level.

Claim 76 (New) The method of Claim 74 wherein the adaptive step specifies a sub-route, a sequence of steps, from a list of sub-route candidates.

Claim 77 (New) The method of Claim 74 wherein a third step in the list of step candidates includes an adaptive step and the adaptive step specifies the third step to adapt the route.

Claim 78 (New) The method of Claim 74 wherein the adaptive step provides multiple selection of steps from the list of step candidates, such that the selected steps execute in parallel.

Claim 79 (New) The method of Claim 74 wherein the adaptive step modifies a step candidate and specifies the modified step candidate by adding to and selecting from the list of step candidates.